

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A video endoscope system, comprising:
an endoscope with a distal end and a proximal end;
an imaging chip located at the distal end of the endoscope; and
an optical fiber, the optical fiber being used for transmitting signals from the imaging chip.
2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising an operator console, wherein the video chip is coupled through the optical fiber to the operator console.
3. The system of Claim 1, further comprising an encoder circuit, wherein the encoder circuit encodes the signals from the imaging chip in the form of video data that is impressed on the optical fiber.
4. The system of Claim 3, wherein the encoder circuit comprises a pulse-code modulator.
5. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a light emitter, wherein the light emitter is utilized for impressing video data on the optical fiber.
6. The system of Claim 5, wherein the light emitter is a photo diode.
7. The system of Claim 5, further comprising lensing that is coupled to the light emitter.
8. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a receiving circuit for receiving signals from the optical fiber.
9. The system of Claim 8, further comprising an optical connector at the proximal end of the endoscope, the optical connector being used to couple the optical fiber to the receiving circuits.
10. The system of Claim 8, wherein the receiving circuit comprises a decoder for decoding signals received from the optical fiber.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein the decoder comprises a pulse-code demodulator.

12. A video endoscope, comprising:
an encoding circuit; and
an optical fiber, wherein video data is impressed on the optical fiber by the encoding circuit.

13. The endoscope of Claim 12, wherein the encoding circuit comprises a pulse-code modulator.

14. The endoscope of Claim 12, wherein the encoding circuit comprises a light emitter.

15. The endoscope of Claim 14, wherein the light emitter is a photo diode that is used for creating the signals that are impressed on the optical fiber.

16. An endoscope system, comprising:
an imaging chip located at the distal end of the endoscope;
an operator console; and
an optical fiber, wherein the imaging chip is coupled through the optical fiber to the operator console.

17. The system of Claim 16, further comprising an encoder circuit, wherein the encoder circuit encodes video data from the imaging chip that is transmitted through the optical fiber.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the encoder circuit comprises a pulse-code modulator.

19. The system of Claim 17, further comprising a light emitter, wherein the light emitter is coupled to the encoder circuit and is utilized for creating the signals that are transmitted through the optical fiber.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the light emitter is a photo diode.

21. The system of Claim 16, further comprising a receiving circuit in the operator console for receiving signals from the optical fiber.

22. The system of Claim 21, further comprising an optical connector at the proximal end of the endoscope, the optical connector being used to couple the optical fiber to the receiving circuit.

23. The system of Claim 21, wherein the receiving circuit comprises a decoder for decoding signals received from the optical fiber.

24. The system of Claim 23, wherein the decoder comprises a pulse-code demodulator.